

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 36**

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3 (By Delegates Lawrence, Doyle, Barill, Cann, Ennis, Ferns, Ferro,  
4 Hall, Hatfield, Manchin, Martin, Morgan, Moye, Pasdon, Perry, R.  
5 Phillips, D. Poling, Rodighiero, Shaver, Skaff, Smith, Staggers  
6 Sumner and Williams)

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9 Recognizing the economic importance of the annual Contemporary  
10 American Theater Festival in Shepherdstown to the town of  
11 Shepherdstown, Jefferson County and the State of West  
12 Virginia.

13 WHEREAS, The Contemporary American Theater Festival was founded  
14 in 1991 by Ed Herendeen and during its twenty-year history it has  
15 produced eighty new plays, thirty world premieres and commissioned  
16 eight new productions; and

17 WHEREAS, As a result of its rich history the Contemporary  
18 American Theater Festival has gained nationwide attention and is  
19 recognized as one of the significant arts organizations in the  
20 nation; and

21 WHEREAS, The Contemporary American Theater Festival attracts  
22 audiences from around the world and twenty-six states during its  
23 four-week festival held during the mid-summer in Shepherdstown on  
24 the grounds of Shepherdstown University; and

25 WHEREAS, Economic studies have demonstrated that visitors spend

1 more money when attending cultural events than do local residents;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Sixty percent of the Contemporary American Theater  
4 Festival audience is from out of state and in 2008 over eleven  
5 thousand tickets to individual plays were sold and the average  
6 spent per audience member per ticket was \$132; and

7 WHEREAS, The total economic impact of the Contemporary American  
8 Theater Festival to the economies of Shepherdstown, Jefferson  
9 County and the state is \$3.2 million; and

10 WHEREAS, Patrons of the Contemporary American Theater Festival  
11 contribute \$2.1 million and corporate and organizational  
12 contributions total \$1.1 million; and

13 WHEREAS, The Contemporary American Theater Festival has created  
14 the equivalent eighty-seven full-time jobs; and

15 WHEREAS, An investment in the Contemporary American Theater  
16 Festival has not only enriched the lives of tens of thousands of  
17 people, it has had a significant economic impact in the region by  
18 leveraging additional spending in the region and state; therefore,  
19 be it

20 *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

21 We gratefully acknowledge the significance of and the  
22 economic importance of the Contemporary American Theater Festival  
23 to Shepherdstown University, the town of Shepherdstown, Jefferson  
24 County and West Virginia; and, be it

25 *Further Resolved*, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates,

1 forward a certified copy of this resolution to Ed Herendeen,  
2 founder and Producing Director of the Contemporary American Theater  
3 Festival, Jim Auxer, Mayor of Shepherdstown and Dr. Suzanne  
4 Shipley, President of Shepherd University.